

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been submitted.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16, and 18 are pending and under consideration, with claims 3-9, 11-16, and 18 having been allowed.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY

As noted in the Request for Withdrawal of Finality filed December 23, 2005, applicants again note that the outstanding Office Action should not have been made final as the features amended into independent claim 1 were previously indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Office Action should not have been made final, and this amendment should be entered.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over Teshigahara, JP08-334951, in view of Arai, U.S. Patent No. 6,724,410. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As seen in FIG 1 of Teshigahara, a selected developing roller, receiving the superimposed AC and DC high power developing voltage, is selected by choosing between contact 7 or 8, where developer contact 6 corresponds to the example selected developing roller.

Thus, in Teshigahara the selection of the superimposed AC and DC high power developing power from contact 7 is directly physically determinative of whether the separate DC bias voltage from contact 8 is selected, i.e., only one is physically selectable.

Conversely, the embodiment of FIG. 6 of the present invention illustrates that a high developing voltage supply 142 voltage is selectively physically supplied to the developers separate from a DC voltage supply 146 physical supplying of a DC voltage to each developer, i.e., the operations of the solenoid power switches Sy-Sk is independent of the selective physical connecting of DC voltage from the DC voltage supply 146.

Correspondingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"wherein the physical switching of the high developing voltage to the one fixed color development roller is independent of a physical selective supplying of the predetermined DC voltage to one fixed color development roller."

Thus, independent claim 1 has a different structure from that of Teshigahara. Further, it is respectfully submitted that because of the difference in structures it would not have been obvious to modify Teshigahara alone or in combination with Arai. Further, it is respectfully submitted that neither Teshigahara nor Arai disclose or suggest motivation for the same.

Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: February 16, 2006

By: 

Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501